WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for developing an inventive idea comprising the steps of:

creating a subscriber list, said subscriber list comprised of subscriber records, each of said subscriber records having at least a subscriber name, subscriber contact information, and subscriber qualifications;

receiving a proposal of an inventive idea by an initial inventor, said patent proposal including desired co-inventor qualifications;

creating a set of desired co-inventor qualifications; and

creating a pool of co-inventors by searching for subscriber records in the subscriber list with subscriber qualifications matching the desired co-inventor qualifications.

2.   The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

contacting subscribers in the pool of co-inventors to inform said subscribers of the inventive idea proposal; and

providing a forum for the pool of co-inventors and the
initial inventor to communicate and to further develop the
inventive idea proposal.

5   3.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the
subscriber list is maintained as a computer database.

       4.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the
inventive idea proposal is transmitted over a network, said
10   network including at least a terminal used by the initial
inventor and a receiving terminal for receiving the
inventive idea proposal.

       5.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the step
15   of creating a pool of co-inventors is performed by an
Inventive Idea Proposal Server.

       6.   The method as recited in claim 2 wherein the step
of contacting subscribers is performed over a network, said
20   network having subscriber terminals, each of said
subscriber terminals being connected to said network and
accessible by one or more subscribers in the pool of co-
inventors.

7. The method as recited in claim 2 wherein the step of providing a forum is performed over a network by an Inventive Idea Proposal Forum Server, said network having subscriber terminals, each of said subscriber terminals being connected to said network and accessible by one or more subscribers in the pool of co-inventors.

8. The method as recited in claim 7 wherein the step of providing a forum further comprises:

providing at least one web page as the forum of the initial inventor and the pool of co-inventors;

wherein a web page is a file viewable in a World Wide Web browser; and

wherein the Inventive Idea Proposal Forum Server acts as web server for said at least one web page.

9. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of creating a subscriber list comprises:

contacting, by an individual on a network, a Subscriber Database;

creating a subscriber record for the individual on the Subscriber Database;

inputting, by the individual, information including,
but not limited to, name, contact information, and
qualifications into the subscriber record; and

storing the subscriber record on the Subscriber

5   Database.

10.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the
step of creating a subscriber list comprises:

establishing non-subscriber criteria;

10   using said non-subscriber criteria to select

individuals;

creating non-subscriber records for said selected

individuals, each of said non-subscriber records containing

information about a selected individual; and

15   maintaining said non-subscriber records on a non-

Subscriber Database.

11.   The method as recited in claim 10, further
comprising the step of:

20   adding individuals to the created pool of co-inventors

by searching said non-Subscriber Database for non-

subscribers that match desired co-inventor qualifications.

12.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein each subscriber record includes a confidentiality level associated with the subscriber.

5   13.   The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the step of creating a set of desired co-inventor qualifications comprises the step of:

establishing a confidentiality level for the inventive idea proposal;

10   wherein said confidentiality level is used to eliminate a subscriber from the pool of co-inventors if the confidentiality level of the subscriber does not meet the confidentiality level of the inventive idea proposal.

15   14.   A system for developing an inventive idea comprising:

a network;

an Inventive Idea Proposal Server for receiving an inventive idea proposal over the network, and for creating

20   a pool of co-inventors from a group of subscribers;

a terminal for transmitting an inventive idea proposal to the Inventive Idea Proposal Server over the network; and

a Subscriber Database for storing subscriber records,

each of said subscriber records having at least a

subscriber name, subscriber contact information, and

subscriber qualifications;

5   wherein said inventive idea proposal includes

qualifications desired in a co-inventor; and

        wherein the Inventive Idea Proposal Server creates the

pool of co-inventors by matching the desired subscriber

qualifications with subscriber records having similar

10   subscriber qualifications.

        15.   The system as recited in claim 14, wherein the

Inventive Idea Proposal Server sends a message to the pool

of co-inventors over the network, said message informing

15   each subscriber in the pool of co-inventors of the

inventive idea proposal.

        16.   The system as recited in claim 14, wherein the

Inventive Idea Proposal Server creates an inventive idea

20   proposal file from the inventive idea proposal, said

inventive idea proposal file including the inventive idea

proposal, a list of members of the pool of co-inventors,

and data generated by the initial inventor and the pool of co-inventors.

17. The system as recited in claim 16, wherein the Inventive Idea Proposal Server further comprises:

a means by which an inventor group can access the inventive idea proposal file over the network; and

a means by which the inventor group can add data to the inventive proposal file over the network;

wherein the inventor group comprises the initial inventor and the pool of co-inventors.

18. The system as recited in claim 16, further comprising:

an Inventive Idea Proposal Web Server for providing at least one web page which is accessible over the network, said at least one web page comprising a means by which an inventor group can access the inventive idea proposal file over the network and a means by which the inventor group can add data to the inventive idea proposal file over the network;

wherein the inventor group comprises the initial inventor and the pool of co-inventors; and

wherein a web page is a file viewable in a World Wide Web browser.

19. The system as recited in claim 14, further comprising:

a terminal for transmitting, by an individual on the network, subscriber information over the network to the Subscriber Database;

wherein at least one subscriber record is created from the subscriber information.

20. The system as recited in claim 14, further comprising:

a non-Subscriber Database for storing non-subscriber records, each of said non-subscriber records corresponding to an individual, each of said individuals being selected using said non-subscriber criteria to select individuals.

21. The system as recited in claim 20, wherein the Inventive Idea Proposal Server adds individuals to the created pool of co-inventors by searching said non-Subscriber Database for non-subscribers that match desired co-inventor qualifications.

YOR9-2000-0204 (728-168)   - 57 -

22. The system as recited in claim 14, wherein each subscriber record includes a confidentiality level associated with the subscriber.

23. The system as recited in claim 22, wherein the Inventive Idea Proposal Server uses confidentiality levels in subscriber records to eliminate subscribers whose confidentiality level does not meet a confidentiality level of the inventive idea proposal.

24. A method for at least two inventors to negotiate for the rights in a patent draft, said patent draft embodying an invention jointly created by said at least two inventors, comprising the steps of:

a) soliciting bids from a pool of potential co-inventors;

b) receiving bids from the pool of potential co-inventors;

c) determining whether to accept any of the received bids;

d) offering counter-bids to members of the pool of potential co-inventors whose bids were not accepted;

e)   receiving responses to the offered counter-bids;

f)   determining whether to accept any of the

responses; and

g)   repeating steps (a)-(f) until a list of co-

inventors is acceptable;

wherein a right in a patent draft is any present or

future interest or benefit from said patent draft; and

wherein, when a bid, counter-bid, or response of a

member of the pool of potential co-inventors is accepted,

the member is removed from the pool of potential co-

inventors and placed on the list of co-inventors.

25.   The method as recited in claim 24, wherein steps

(a), (b), (d), (e) are performed by a Rights Negotiation

Server over a network, said network being connected to

terminals accessible by the pool of potential co-inventors.

26.   The method as recited in claim 24, wherein steps

(c) and (f) are performed by a heuristic computer program.

27.   The method as recited in claim 24, wherein steps

(c) and (f) are performed by an initial inventor, said

initial inventor being one of the at least two inventors

and having originated a proposal for the patent draft.

28. The method as recited in claim 24, wherein steps

(c) and (f) are performed before drafting the patent draft.

29. The method as recited in claim 24, wherein steps

(c) and (f) are performed after drafting the patent draft.

30. A system for at least two inventors to negotiate

for the rights in a patent draft, comprising:

a Rights Negotiation Server for soliciting bids from a

pool of potential co-inventors, for receiving bids from the

pool of potential co-inventors, and for receiving responses

to counter-bids; and

a network connecting the Rights Negotiation Server

with at least one terminal accessible by the pool of

potential co-inventors;

wherein a right in a patent draft is any present or

future interest or benefit from said patent draft; and

wherein, when a bid, counter-bid, or response of a

member of the pool of potential co-inventors is accepted,

the member is removed from the pool of potential co-inventors and placed on the list of co-inventors.

31. The system as recited in claim 30, wherein a heuristic computer program determines if a bid or a response to a counter-bid is acceptable and generates counter-bids.

32. The system as recited in claim 30, wherein an initial inventor determines if a bid or a response to a counter-bid is acceptable and generates counter-bids, said initial inventor being one of the at least two inventors and having originated a proposal for the patent draft.

33. The system as recited in claim 30, wherein said Rights Negotiation Server solicits bids from a pool of potential co-inventors, receives bids from the pool of potential co-inventors, and receives responses to counter-bids before drafting the patent draft.

34. The system as recited in claim 30, wherein said Rights Negotiation Server solicits bids from a pool of potential co-inventors, receives bids from the pool of

potential co-inventors, and receives responses to counter-bids after drafting the patent draft.

35. A method for drafting a patent application comprising the steps of:

writing, by members of a pool of co-inventors, portions of a patent draft to a patent draft file in a Patent Draft Server; and

posting, by members of a pool of co-inventors, information concerning the patent draft to the patent draft file;

wherein the Patent Draft Server is connected to a network and members of the pool of co-inventors have access to terminals that are connected to the network; and

wherein the patent draft file comprises at least a list of co-inventors, a word-processing file of the patent draft, and the posted information concerning the patent draft.

36. The method as recited in claim 35, wherein the posted information is computer-readable files, including, but not limited to, text, word-processing files, graphics files, audio files, and video files.

37. The method as recited in claim 35, further comprising the step of:

creating at least one web page for the pool of co-inventors to use to access the patent draft file;

wherein the at least one web page provides a means for the pool of co-inventors and the initial inventor to post information concerning the patent draft to the patent draft file; and

wherein additions, deletions, and edits of the patent draft file are recorded in the patent draft file.

38. The method as recited in claim 35, further comprising the step of:

creating at least one web page for the pool of co-inventors to use to access patent draft files;

wherein the at least one web page is stored on a Patent Draft Web Server;

wherein the Patent Draft Web Server provides a means for the pool of co-inventors and the initial inventor to post information concerning the patent draft to the patent draft file; and

wherein additions, deletions, and edits of the patent

draft file are recorded in the patent draft file.

39.   A system for drafting a patent application

comprising:

a plurality of terminals connected to a network, at

least one of said terminal being accessible to members of a

pool of co-inventors;

a Patent Draft Server for storing a patent draft file;

and

a Patent Draft Web Server connected to said network

and connected to said Patent Draft Server for providing

access to said patent draft file;

wherein the patent draft file comprises at least a

list of co-inventors, a word-processing file of a patent

draft application, and posted information concerning the

patent draft application; and

wherein members of a pool of co-inventors write

portions of the patent draft application and post

information concerning the patent draft application to the

patent draft file by means for the Patent Draft Web Server.

40. A method of creating a patent draft application comprising the steps of:

a) creating a subscriber list, said subscriber list comprised of subscriber records, each of said subscriber records having at least a subscriber name, subscriber contact information, and subscriber qualifications;

b) receiving a proposal of a patent idea by an initial inventor, said patent proposal including desired co-inventor qualifications;

c) creating a pool of potential co-inventors by searching for subscriber records in the subscriber list with subscriber qualifications matching the desired co-inventor qualifications;

d) contacting subscribers in the pool of potential co-inventors to inform said subscribers of the patent proposal;

e) providing a forum for the pool of potential co-inventors and the initial inventor to communicate and to further develop the patent proposal;

f) determining, at any time, co-inventors from the pool of potential co-inventors and the initial inventor, said co-inventors being contributors to a patent draft application based on the patent proposal;

g) apportioning, at any time, rights in the patent draft application among the co-inventors, wherein a right in a patent draft application is any present or future interest or benefit from said patent draft application;

h) writing, by at least one co-inventor, the patent draft application; and

i) posting, by at least one co-inventor, information concerning the patent draft so that at least one other co-inventor may access the posted information.

41. The method as recited in claim 40, wherein step (g) comprises:

soliciting bids from the pool of potential co-inventors;

receiving bids from the pool of potential co-inventors;

determining whether to accept any of the received bids;

offering counter-bids to members of the pool of potential co-inventors whose bids were not accepted;

receiving responses to the offered counter-bids;

determining whether to accept any of the responses; and

repeating the above steps until a list of co-inventors

is acceptable;

wherein, when a bid, counter-bid, or response of a

member of the pool of potential co-inventors is accepted,

5 the member is removed from the pool of potential co-

inventors and placed on the list of co-inventors.

42. A system for creating a patent draft application

comprising:

10 a Subscriber Database for storing subscriber records,

each of said subscriber records having at least a

subscriber name, subscriber contact information, and

subscriber qualifications;

a Patent Proposal Server for receiving a patent

15 proposal from an initial inventor, said patent proposal

including qualifications desired in a co-inventor, for

creating a pool of potential co-inventors from a group of

subscribers by matching the desired co-inventor

qualifications with subscriber records having similar

20 subscriber qualifications, and for creating a patent

proposal file from the patent proposal, said patent

proposal file including at least the patent proposal, a

list of the members in the pool of potential co-inventors,

and data generated by the pool of potential co-inventors and the initial inventor;

a Rights Negotiation Server for soliciting bids from a pool of potential co-inventors, for receiving bids from the pool of potential co-inventors, and for receiving responses to counter-bids, whereby the pool of potential co-inventors and the initial inventor negotiate for rights in a patent draft made from a patent proposal, thereby creating a list of co-inventors; and

a Patent Draft Server for storing a patent draft file, said patent draft file including at least a list of co-inventors, a word-processing file of a patent draft application, and posted information concerning the patent draft application, whereby members of a pool of co-inventors and the initial inventor write portions of the patent draft application and post information concerning the patent draft application;

wherein a right in a patent draft is any present or future interest or benefit from said patent draft; and

wherein, when a bid, counter-bid, or response of a member of the pool of potential co-inventors is accepted, the member is removed from the pool of potential co-inventors and placed on the list of co-inventors.

43. The system as recited in claim 42, further

comprising:

a network;

5   a terminal for transmitting the patent proposal to the

Patent Proposal Server over the network; and

at least one terminal connected to a network, said at

least one terminal being accessible to members of the pool

of potential co-inventors.

10

44. The system as recited in claim 43, further

comprising:

a Patent Proposal Web Server connected to the network

for providing access to the patent proposal file by means

15   of at least one web page;

wherein a web page is a file viewable in a World Wide

Web browser; and

wherein members of the pool of potential co-inventors

post information concerning the patent proposal to the

20   patent proposal file by using the at least one web page on

the Patent Proposal Web Server.

45. The system as recited in claim 43, further comprising:

a Patent Draft Web Server connected to the network for providing access to the patent draft file by means of at least one web page;

wherein a web page is a file viewable in a World Wide Web browser; and

wherein members on the list of co-inventors write portions of the patent draft application and post information concerning the patent draft application to the patent draft file by using the at least one web page on the Patent Draft Web Server.

46. A method of doing business by providing an inventive idea development service, comprising the steps of:

creating a subscriber list, said subscriber list comprised of subscriber records, each of said subscriber records having at least a subscriber name, subscriber contact information, and subscriber qualifications;

receiving a proposal of an inventive idea by an initial inventor, said inventive idea proposal including desired co-inventor qualifications; and

creating a pool of potential co-inventors by searching

for subscriber records in the subscriber list with

subscriber qualifications matching the desired co-inventor

qualifications.

5

47.   The method of doing business as recited in claim

46, further comprising the step of:

contacting members of the pool of potential co-

inventors to inform said members of the inventive idea

10   proposal.

48.   The method of doing business as recited in claim

46, further comprising the step of:

providing a forum for the pool of co-inventors and the

15   initial inventor to communicate and to further develop the

inventive idea proposal.

49.   The method of doing business as recited in claim

46, further comprising the step of:

20   obtaining a fee from at least one subscriber, said fee

entitling said at least one subscriber to subscribe to the

subscriber list.

50. The method of doing business as recited in claim 46, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from the initial inventor, said fee entitling said initial inventor to obtain information concerning the pool of potential co-inventors.

51. The method of doing business as recited in claim 46, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from a corporation for creating the subscriber list using a subscriber criteria supplied by the corporation, for accepting inventive idea proposals using an inventive idea proposal criteria supplied by the corporation, and for creating a pool of potential co-inventors using a potential co-inventor criteria supplied by the corporation.

52. A method of doing business by providing an inventive idea development service to a corporation for a fee, comprising the steps of:

providing a secured forum on a network for a pool of potential co-inventors and an initial inventor to communicate and to further develop an inventive idea proposal.

53. The method of doing business as recited in Claim 52, further comprising the step of:

providing at least one web page as means for the secured forum of the initial inventor and the pool of potential co-inventors;

wherein a web page is a file viewable in a World Wide Web browser.

54. The method of doing business as recited in claim 52, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from at least one member of the pool of potential co-inventors, said fee entitling said at least one member to access the secured forum on the network.

55. The method of doing business as recited in claim 52, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from the initial inventor, said fee entitling said initial inventor to access the secured forum on the network.

56. The method of doing business as recited in claim 52, wherein the secured forum is on the Internet.

YOR9-2000-0204 (728-168) - 73 -

57. A method of doing business by providing a service by which at least two potential co-inventors negotiate for the rights in a patent application draft, said patent draft embodying an invention jointly created by said at least two inventors, comprising the steps of:

providing a secured forum on a network for a pool of potential co-inventors;

negotiating, by members of the pool of potential co-inventors, for the rights in a patent application draft, using the secured forum; and

establishing, when the negotiation for rights has completed, a list of co-inventors from the pool of potential co-inventors;

wherein a right in a patent draft is any present or future interest or benefit from said patent draft.

58. The method of doing business as recited in Claim 57, further comprising the step of:

providing at least one web page as means for the secured forum to communicate and to negotiate for the rights in a patent application draft;

wherein a web page is a file viewable in a World Wide Web browser.

59. The method of doing business as recited in claim 57, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from at least one member of the pool of potential co-inventors, said fee entitling said at least one member to access the secured forum on the network.

60. The method of doing business as recited in claim 57, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from a corporation for providing the secured forum on the network.

61. The method of doing business as recited in claim 57, wherein the step of negotiating further comprises the steps of:

a) soliciting bids from a pool of potential co-inventors;

b) receiving bids from the pool of potential co-inventors;

c) determining whether to accept any of the received bids;

d)   offering counter-bids to members of the pool of potential co-inventors whose bids were not accepted;

e)   receiving responses to the offered counter-bids;

f)   determining whether to accept any of the responses; and

g)   repeating steps (a)-(f) until a list of co-inventors is established.

62.   A method of doing business by providing a patent application drafting service, comprising the steps of:

providing a secured forum on a network for a pool of co-inventors;

writing, by members of a pool of co-inventors, portions of a patent draft to a patent draft file accessible through the secured forum; and

posting, by members of a pool of co-inventors, information concerning the patent draft to the patent draft file.

63.   The method of doing business as recited in claim 62, further comprising the step of:

providing at least one web page as means for the secured forum of the pool of co-inventors;

wherein a web page is a file viewable in a World Wide Web browser.

64. The method of doing business as recited in claim 62, wherein the patent draft file comprises at least a list of co-inventors, a word-processing file of the patent draft, and the posted information concerning the patent draft.

65. The method of doing business as recited in claim 62, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from at least one member of the pool of co-inventors, said fee entitling said at least one member to access the secured forum on the network.

66. The method of doing business as recited in claim 62, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from a corporation for providing the secured forum on the network.

67. A method of doing business by providing a patent proposal and patent application drafting service, comprising the steps of:

creating a subscriber list, said subscriber list

comprised of subscriber records, each of said subscriber

records having at least a subscriber name, subscriber

contact information, and subscriber qualifications;

5   receiving a proposal of a patent idea by an initial

inventor, said patent proposal including desired co-

inventor qualifications;

creating a pool of potential co-inventors by searching

for subscriber records in the subscriber list with

10   subscriber qualifications matching the desired co-inventor

qualifications;

providing a secured patent proposal forum on a

network;

communicating and further developing, by the pool of

15   potential co-inventors and the initial inventor, the patent

proposal using the secured patent proposal forum;

providing a secured rights negotiation forum on a

network for a pool of potential co-inventors;

negotiating, by members of the pool of potential co-

20   inventors, for the rights in a patent application draft,

using the secured rights negotiation forum;

establishing, when the negotiation for rights has

completed, a list of co-inventors from the pool of

potential co-inventors and the initial inventor;

providing a secured patent draft forum on a network

5   for the members of the list of co-inventors;

writing, by members of the list of co-inventors,

portions of a patent draft to a patent draft file

accessible through the secured patent draft forum; and

posting, by members of a pool of co-inventors,

10   information concerning the patent draft to the patent draft

file;

wherein a right in a patent draft is any present or

future interest or benefit from said patent draft.

15   68.   The method of doing business as recited in claim

67, further comprising the step of:

providing at least one web page as means for the

secured patent proposal forum of the initial inventor and

the pool of potential co-inventors;

20   wherein a web page is a file viewable in a World Wide

Web browser.

69. The method of doing business as recited in claim 67, further comprising the step of:

providing at least one web page as means for the secured rights negotiation forum of the initial inventor and the pool of potential co-inventors;

wherein a web page is a file viewable in a World Wide Web browser.

70. The method of doing business as recited in claim 67, further comprising the step of:

providing at least one web page as means for the secured patent draft forum of the initial inventor and the members of the list of co-inventors;

wherein a web page is a file viewable in a World Wide Web browser.

71. The method of doing business as recited in claim 67, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from at least one subscriber, said fee entitling said at least one subscriber to subscribe to the subscriber list.

72. The method of doing business as recited in claim 67, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from the initial inventor, said fee entitling said initial inventor to obtain information

5   concerning the pool of potential co-inventors.

73. The method of doing business as recited in claim 67, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from a corporation for creating the

10   subscriber list using a subscriber criteria supplied by the corporation, for accepting patent proposals using a patent proposal criteria supplied by the corporation, and for creating a pool of potential co-inventors using a potential co-inventor criteria supplied by the corporation.

15

74. The method of doing business as recited in claim 67, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from at least one member of the pool of potential co-inventors, said fee entitling said at least

20   one member to access the secured patent proposal forum on the network.

75.   The method of doing business as recited in claim
67, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from the initial inventor, said fee
entitling said initial inventor to access the secured

5   patent proposal forum on the network.

76.   The method of doing business as recited in claim
67, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from a corporation for providing the

10   secured patent proposal forum on the network.

77.   The method of doing business as recited in claim
67, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from at least one member of the pool

15   of potential co-inventors, said fee entitling said at least
one member to access the secured rights negotiation forum
on the network.

78.   The method of doing business as recited in claim

20   67, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from the initial inventor, said fee
entitling said initial inventor to access the secured
rights negotiation forum on the network.

79. The method of doing business as recited in claim
67, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from a corporation for providing the
5   secured rights negotiation forum on the network.

80. The method of doing business as recited in claim
67, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from at least one member of the list
10   of co-inventors, said fee entitling said at least one

member to access the secured patent draft forum on the

network.

81. The method of doing business as recited in claim
15   67, further comprising the step of:

obtaining a fee from a corporation for providing the

secured patent draft forum on the network.

82. A computer system for developing an inventive
20   idea, the computer system comprising:

at least one computer-readable memory including:

code that maintains a database structure of a

subscriber list, said subscriber list comprised of

subscriber records, each of said subscriber records

having at least a subscriber name, subscriber

contact information, and subscriber qualifications;

code that receives a proposal of an inventive

5   idea by an initial inventor, said inventive idea

proposal including desired co-inventor

qualifications;

code that searches for subscriber records in the

subscriber list with subscriber qualifications

10   matching a set of desired co-inventor qualifications

for the inventive idea proposal; and

code that creates a pool of co-inventors from a

set of subscriber records that match a set of

desired co-inventor qualifications.

15

83.   The system as recited in claim 82, the computer

system further comprising

at least one of computer-readable memory including:

code that maintains an inventive idea proposal

20   forum, said inventive idea proposal forum being accessible

to the pool of co-inventors, and said inventive idea

proposal forum allowing the pool of co-inventors to post

information to an inventive idea proposal file.

84.   A computer system for at least two inventors to
negotiate for the rights in a patent draft, the computer
system comprising:

5   at least one computer-readable memory including:

code for soliciting bids over a network from a
pool of potential co-inventors;

code for receiving bids over a network from the
pool of potential co-inventors;

10   code for offering counter-bids over a network to
members of the pool of potential co-inventors whose
bids were not accepted; and

code for receiving responses over a network to
the offered counter-bids;

15   wherein a right in a patent draft is any present or
future interest or benefit from said patent draft; and

wherein, when a bid, counter-bid, or response of a
member of the pool of potential co-inventors is accepted,
the member is removed from the pool of potential co-

20   inventors and placed on the list of co-inventors.

85.   A computer system for drafting a patent
application, the computer system comprising:

at least one computer-readable memory including:

code that maintains a database structure
containing patent draft files, each of said patent
draft files comprising at least a list of co-

5   inventors, a word-processing file of a patent draft
application, and posted information concerning the
patent draft application;

code that allows members of a list of co-
inventors to write to and edit a corresponding word

10   processing file;

code that allows members of a list of co-
inventors to post information in the form of
computer files to a corresponding patent draft file;

code that tracks all interaction between members

15   of a list of co-inventors and a corresponding patent
draft file;

code that stores interaction records in a
corresponding patent draft file; and

code that provides at least one graphical user

20   interface (GUI) for the patent draft files, said at
least one GUI for members of a list of co-inventors
to edit a corresponding word-processing file, post

information to a corresponding patent draft file,
and view corresponding interaction records.

86. A computer system for creating a patent
application, the computer system comprising:

at least one computer-readable memory including:

code that maintains a database structure of a
subscriber list, said subscriber list comprised of
subscriber records, each of said subscriber records
having at least a subscriber name, subscriber
contact information, and subscriber qualifications;

code that receives a proposal of a patent idea by
an initial inventor, said patent proposal including
desired co-inventor qualifications;

code that searches for subscriber records in the
subscriber list with subscriber qualifications
matching a set of desired co-inventor qualifications
for the patent proposal;

code that creates a pool of potential co-
inventors from a set of subscriber records that
match a set of desired co-inventor qualifications;

code that provides a forum for the pool of
potential co-inventors and the initial inventor to

communicate and to further develop the patent
proposal;

code that enables the determination, at any time,
of a list of co-inventors from the pool of potential
co-inventors and the initial inventor, said co-
inventors being contributors to a patent draft
application based on the patent proposal;

code that enables the apportionment, at any time,
of rights in the patent draft application among co-
inventors, wherein a right in a patent draft
application is any present or future interest or
benefit from said patent draft application;

code that maintains a database structure
containing patent draft files, each of said patent
draft files comprising at least a list of co-
inventors, a word-processing file of a patent draft
application, and posted information concerning the
patent draft application;

code that allows members of a list of co-
inventors to write to and edit a corresponding word
processing file;

code that allows members of a list of co-inventors to post information in the form of computer files to a corresponding patent draft file;

code that tracks all interaction between members of a list of co-inventors and a corresponding patent draft file;

code that stores interaction records in a corresponding patent draft file; and

code that provides at least one graphical user interface (GUI) for the patent draft files, said at least one GUI for members of a list of co-inventors to edit a corresponding word-processing file, post information to a corresponding patent draft file, and view corresponding interaction records.

87.   The computer system as recited in claim 86, further comprising:

at least one computer-readable memory including:

code for soliciting bids over a network from a pool of potential co-inventors;

code for receiving bids over a network from the pool of potential co-inventors;

code for offering counter-bids over a network to members of the pool of potential co-inventors whose bids were not accepted; and

code for receiving responses over a network to

5   the offered counter-bids;

wherein, when a bid, counter-bid, or response of a member of the pool of potential co-inventors is accepted, the member is removed from the pool of potential co-inventors and placed on the list of co-inventors.

10